

The
worshippers
of
ancestral
spirits
among
the
Bantu
tribes
of
North
Rhodesia.

occasionally pray to him, particularly in the case of a difficult birth, he has no priests and receives no sacrifices.

The business of the priests is to act as intermediaries, not between God and man, but between men and the spirits.

The spirits are believed to have been formerly kings of the

world. The highest of them is a certain Wamara, who rules over the souls of the dead, and who would seem to

have been a great king in his life. Temples are built for

him ; they are like the houses of men, but only half as

large. A perpetual holy fire is kept up in each temple, and the priest passes the night in it. He receives white

sheep or goats as victims, and generally acts also as a diviner or physician. When a man is very ill, he thinks that Wamara, the lord of the spirits of the dead, is

su yet a while.¹ This great
m spirit of an ancient
mo king, who now rules over the
n- dead, resembles the Egyptian
ing Osiris.

hi The Bantu tribes who
m inhabit the great tableland
to of
the Northern Rhodesia revere a
far supreme being whom they
co call

unt Leza, but their ideas about
ry; him are hazy. Thunder, light-
so ning, earthquakes, rain, and
he other natural phenomena are
sen grouped together under his
ds name as manifestations of
a his

sac power. Among the more
rifi progressive tribes, such as
ce the

to Awemba and the Wabisa, the
Wa great god is thought to take
ma some interest In human
ra' affairs ; and though they do
s not

pri pray to him, they
est nevertheless invoke him by
, his names of
wh praise, which set forth his
o attributes as the protector
pra and

ys judge of mankind. It is he,
to too, who receives the souls
the of

spi the departed. " Yet, as far
rit as the dominant Wemba
to tribe

let is concerned, the cult of
the Leza is outside their
sic ordinary

k religion. There is no direct
ma access to him by prayer or by
n sacrifices, which are made
liv to Mulenga and the other
e great

¹ Hermann Rehse, buffalo, the otter,
Kisiba ^ *Land*
uud *Leute*
(Stuttgart, 1910),
pp. 4-7,
106 *sqq.* 121, 125
sqq. 130. Among
the totems of the
people are the long-
tailed monkey
(*Cercopithecus*) > a
small
species of antelope,
the locust,, the
hippopotamus, the

dappled cows, and
the hearts of all
animals. The
members of the clan
which is charged
with the duty of
burying the king's
body have for their
totem the remains of
a goat that has
been killed by a
leopard. See II.
Rehse, *op. tit.* pp. 5
sq.